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REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 and 9 are canceled. Claims 4, 10, 15, and 17 have been amended. As such, Claims 4-8 and 10-20 will be pending after entry of this amendment. Support for these claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the originally filed claims.

Notably, the Examiner indicated that Claims 4-8 and 10-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The aforementioned claim amendments do just that. That is, Claims 4, 10, 15, and 17 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

DRAWING OBJECTION

To comply with the Examiner's request for a drawing that facilitates understanding of the invention, Applicants enclose a figure labeled New Sheet (Figure 1). The specification has been amended accordingly to reflect the new figure.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in light of Martin *et al.* (WO 93/12615) in view of MacRae *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,305).

Claim 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in light of Martin *et al.* (WO 93/12615) in view of MacRae *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,305) as applied to Claim 2 above, and further in view of Van Oort *et al.* (U.S. 2003/0005927).

In light of the cancellation of Claims 1-3 and 9, the aforementioned rejections are moot.

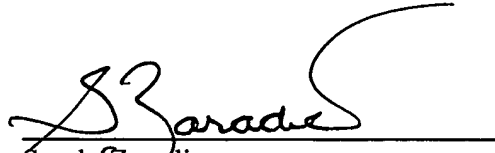
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CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing amendments place this application now in condition for allowance. Therefore, favorable action allowing pending Claims 4-8 and 10-20 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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